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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

A COSTLY DELEGATE

DEAR EDITOR: I would like the enclosed expense account published in the JOURNAL and wish you would ask other delegates to send theirs for publication for comparison. As this amounts to over $27 a day for one person, it would be interesting to know what others had to pay.

EXPENSES OF ONE DELEGATE TO MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., COVERING FIVE DAYS

Ticket	$34.80
Pullman	14.00
Hotel (room)	24.50
Board	39.25
Cabs	3.00
Tips to waiters and porters	5.00
Car fare	1.75
Substitute	10.00
Trunk transfer	1.50
Laundry	1.25
	$135.95

L.

[It would seem hardly necessary to give a word of caution to nurses representing their associations at our large gatherings in regard to extravagance of any kind. We think one distinguished by her association in having this privilege should, if anything, be more careful in regard to economy than if she were meeting her own expenses. Our own rule is to select a small room, without bath, to avoid cabs as much as possible, to limit our tips to waiters to the proportion of 10 per cent. of the bill, and to select the simpler and less expensive articles of food on the menu. Where the hotel service is extravagant, we take part of our meals at a nearby restaurant. We took these same precautions when, as an examiner, our expenses were paid by the state. Those who have had a wide experience of the responsibility of spending other people's money are more particular in regard to these matters than in spending their own.—EDITOR.]

ADVICE SOUGHT

DEAR EDITOR: What strength carbolic and formalin solutions are being used by the hospitals for disinfecting operating room walls? I have been using 1–1000 bichloride and find it stains the walls unless used sparingly.

In replying to "An Inquirer" in the October JOURNAL, I wish to say that

I do not know whether it is customary for surgeons to have a nurse for assistant, but I am assistant here, and a doctor from Columbus also has a nurse assistant, both having another doctor for the anæsthetic. M. M., Ohio.

SUGGESTIVE

DEAR EDITOR: Enclosed you will find fifty dollars to cover the expense of twenty-five subscriptions for the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. I will ask to have these subscriptions begin with the November JOURNAL if possible.

Our senior classes hereafter will make the JOURNAL a text-book for class readings and class discussions, and I hope that by the time they are ready to leave the school they will have formed such a "Journal habit" that they will be unable to get along without it.

The Sisters all remember with pleasure your visit to Mercy Hospital and hope that you will find it convenient to come and see us if you are in Chicago again. Needless to tell you that we all enjoy the magazine and look forward to its monthly visit. With best wishes for your success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

SISTER M. VERONICA,
Superintendent of Nurses.

JOURNAL COMMENTS

DEAR EDITOR: A short time ago I received my first subscribed copy of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING and have read it from cover to cover.

The International Council and Congress in London must have been an inspiration.

I am nursing on an island where one finds sanitary difficulties similar to those Isabel McIsaac mentions in her "Household Hygiene," and as I am practically housekeeper as well as nurse, I find myself spending about a third of my time fighting these conditions outside the sickroom. Would that every intelligent person on the island might read and appreciate that article.

"A Plea for the Profession of Private Nursing" deserves attention and thought. The suggestions seem plausible and excellent.

Concerning the printing of answers to examination questions, may I add my plea to the list. Although a comparatively recent graduate and desirous of "keeping abreast of the times," I find that as experience increases I have little time or inclination for real study and research. It necessitates the having at hand of any number of text-books. The printing of answers would enable one to "brush up" on half a dozen questions during a leisure ten minutes.

I was interested and somewhat amused on reading "Trans-Missouri's" letter in the October issue. Evidently our sister has not taken into consideration the fact that all nurses are not gentlewomen.

I call myself a Bostonian and only last winter I made the acquaintance of a nurse of average ability, though not a graduate of my own school, who appeared to be in her element when chewing gum, and whose conversation was punctuated with slang. Some nurses do not look upon the profession as seriously as others. I feel that there is hope for the nurse "across the aisle." Perhaps at some future time she will come in touch with nurses of "Trans-Missouri's" type who will influence her to "act the better part." Personally, I believe in the highest ideals, the most faithful service. VIA NANTUCKETT.